

always easy of access and safe, offer sufficient harbours and anchorages in near connection with the road, and capable of being brought in direct contact with it. The advantage, therefore, which they present of occasional winter harbours for merchant vessels, and the facilities which the road offers for the conveyance of cargoes, are, I conceive, of no inconsiderable importance, viewed either in relation to the interests of the Eastern Shore, or to those of the commercial cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia and Wilmington.

With respect to the Southern trade of Philadelphia, it is believed, that the road will be of material advantage to her, in opening a communication with a harbour accessible to her shipping at all times. For the difficulties which attend the navigation of the Delaware, are very great, and before the erection of the Breakwater near its entrance, the approach from sea at certain seasons of the year was exceedingly hazardous. Although that work now affords protection to a large amount of property, it would seem to be problematical whether it will continue to fulfil all the objects for which it was designed. [Appendix B. & C.]

Vessels ascending the river are yet liable to delays, the effects of which upon the commerce of Philadelphia appear by the annual report of her Board of Trade for 1834 5, to be very serious. The Board in speaking of these delays, says. "our ships arrive at the capes of Delaware in passages equally short with those of New York, but they have frequently to encounter an hundred miles of head winds, strong currents and narrow channels. It should be recollected too, that in exact proportion to the length of these delays, be they what they may, our neighbours gain all the time, and too frequently much of the freight. It therefore behooves us to take such measures as shall secure to our ships and to our importers their proper share of foreign commerce, and give to our accumulating exports the readiest despatch;" and a select joint committee of the councils of the city in the year 1835, states, that large portions of her foreign imports are every winter shipped directly for New York in consequence of the uncertainty of access to their city by the Delaware, and that their "powerful and most active rival has also derived other advantages in the sale of goods from the appre-